

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 DPW-01 CU-04 DRC-01 AGR-20

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P R 281150Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6263

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

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CINCUSARPAC

DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 7351

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MPOS, ECON, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT-MAY 28, 1974

GENERAL

1. THE GKR REACTED TO A MODERATE RESURGENCE OF TEACHER-STUDENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVISM BY ARRESTING OVER 60 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN SEVERAL INCIDENT-FREE POLICE OPERATIONS. THE ARRESTS, BILLED AS AIMED AT ENSURING PUBLIC ORDER, ECLIPSED A GENERALLY QUIET WEEK ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THE KC SHOWED SOME MUSCLE JUST SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, HOWEVER, EDGING CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE CAPITAL TO SUPPLEMENT AN ON-GOING LIGHT BARRAGE OF ROCKETS FROM THE NORTHEAST WITH A FEW MORTARS AND ROCKETS FROM THE SOUTHEAST. FANK, FOR ITS PART, PUSHED A NAVAL CONVOY UP THE TONLE SAP TO KOMPONG CHHNANG, THEREBY REOPENING THE WATERWAY WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE APRIL 21. KC FORCES "COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KHIEU SAMPHAN RETURNED TO HANOI FROM PEKING ON MAY 27, TWO MONTHS AFTER HE ARRIVED THERE ON THE START OF HIS MARATHON TREK TO FRIENDLY PARTS OF ASIA, AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THE CHINESE ENHANCED SAMPHAN'S TANDING WITH A NEW MILITARY AID AGREEMENT AND A ROUSING SEND-OFF.

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POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. BEGINNING MAY 21, THE GKR MOVED TO HAMSTRING TEACHER/STUDENT ACTIVISM BY ARRESTING LEADING TEACHERS AND STUDENTS CHIEFLY ON GROUNDS OF ILLEGAL ASSEMBLY. THREE TEACHERS WERE NETTED EARLY IN THE WEEK, AND A DAWN SWOOP ON MAY 26 ROUNDED-UP 61 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SLEEPING OVERNIGHT AT A LYCEE. THIRTY-FIVE OF THE

LATTER GROUP HAVE SINCE BEEN RELEASED. SEVERAL KEY AGITATORS ARE AMONG THOSE PICKED UP BUT STILL AT LARGE IS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT, LOCH SOEUN, WHO IS ONE OF THE POLICE'S PRIME TARGETS. IN PROTEST, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AT FOUR LYCEES REFUSED TO ENTER CLASSROOMS BEGINNING MAY 27. COMMENT: A MAJOR GKR OBJECTIVE APPARENTLY IS TO HEAD-OFF STUDENT/TEACHER PLANS TO HOLD A "POPULAR CONGRESS" TO DISCUSS NEW ANTI-GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

3. USSR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN TOLD AMBASSADOR STOESEL ON MAY 22 THAT THE SOVIET BELIEVE THERE CAN BE NO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA INVOLVING LON NOL AND THAT, IN HIM, THE U.S. "IS BACKING THE WRONG HORSE." HE STATED ALSO THAT THE INSURGENTS ARE GRADUALLY TIGHTENING THE NOOSE AROUND PHNOM PENH. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE EFFECTIVE AND IS PREPARED TO TALK TO ANY AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OTHER SIDE.

4. A UNICEF OFFICIAL RECENTLY COMPLETED A VISIT TO HANOI WHERE HE DISCUSSED WITH GRUNK REPRESENTATIVES THE NEEDS OF KHMER CHILDREN IN AREAS WHICH GKR SERVICES CANNOT REACH. THE GRUNK REPRESENTATIVES RESPONDED THAT THE NEEDS WERE "ENORMOUS," BUT SAID THAT, AT PRESENT, THERE ARE SERIOUS LOGISTICAL AND OTHER OBSTACLES TO ANY KIND OF UNICEF ASSISTANCE.

GRUNK/FUNK

5. KHIEU SAMPHAN AND HIS TOURING GRUNK/FUNK DELEGATION ARE ON THEIR WAY BACK HOME AFTER HAVING BEEN GIVEN A CONFIDENTIAL

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ROUSING SEND-OFF BY THEIR CHINESE MENTORS. THEY "TOPPED OFF" IN HANOI MAY 27 WHERE THEY WERE GREETED BY PHAM VAN DONG, GENERAL GIAP AND OTHERS.

6. PEKING UNDERSCORED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE IN-COUNTRY GRUNK/FUNK LEADERS BY TIMING THE ANNUAL AGREEMENT WHEREBY THE PRC PROVIDES, "GRATIS" MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND PROVISIONS (DETAILS UNSPECIFIED) TO COINCIDE WITH THEIR RETURN VISIT; KHIEU SAMPHAN AND CHINESE VICE-PREMIER LI HSIEN NIEN WERE THE CO-SIGNERS. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE DESCRIBED THE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO CHINA AS A "COMPLETE SUCCESS", LAUDED GRUNK/FUNK FOR HAVING SHATTERED US EFFORTS AT "KHMERIZATION OF THE WAR", CITED GRUNK'S GROWING INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE AND THE NEED FOR ITS UN SEAT TO BE "RESTORED", AND EXPRESSED THE VISITORS' THANKS TO THE PRC FOR ACTING AS A "RELIABLE REAR AREA" AND PROVIDING

"ALL-OUT" SUPPORT FOR THE CAMBODIAN STRUGGLE. THE COMMUNIQUE
TOOK AN OBLIQUE SLAP AT THE RUSSIANS THROUGH ITS REFERENCE TO
THE "RIVALRY BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS" AND MADE THE USUAL
OBEISANCES TO OTHER "THIRD WORLD" STRUGGLES. COMMENT:

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 DPW-01 CU-04 DRC-01 AGR-20

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P R 281150Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6264

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
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COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACHTAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 7351
THE CHINESE WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS IN THE JOINT
COMMUNIQUE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR GRUNK, IN
GENERAL, AND TO PRAISE THE KHIEU SAMPHAN DELEGATION, IN
PARTICULAR. CRITICISM OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT WAS
RELATIVELY RESTRAINED, HOWEVER, (PARTICULARLY WHEN COMPARED
TO THE VITUPERATIVE NATURE OF AN INTERNAL FUNK RADIO
SUMMARY OF THE SAMPHAN TRIP). THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC
REFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS ASIDE FROM THE REITERATION OF
THE FORMULA CALLING FOR AN END TO US ASSISTANCE TO LON NOL
AND SETTLEMENT OF THE CAMBODIAN QUESTION BY THE KHMER
THEMSELVES. END COMMENT.

ECONOMIC

7. RETAIL PRICE MOVEMENTS CONTINUED TO BE MIXED. MOST
MEAT PRICES REMAINED STABLE OR DECLINED AND VEGETABLES
WERE VARIED DEPENDING ON SEASONAL AND SUPPLY FACTORS.
OCEAN FISH PRICES JUMPTED SHARPLY, WHILE FRESH AND DRIED
FISH WERE UNCHANGED. THE BLACK MARKET RATE FOR A DOLLAR
INCREASED FROM 760 TO 780 RIELS.

8. SUPPLIES OF POL PRODUCTS AS OF MAY 24 WERE SUFFICIENT
TO MEET ESSENTIAL PHNOM PENH REQUIREMENTS; ADDITIONAL
STOCKS WERE EXPECTED IN BY JUNE. ON MAY 25,
THERE WAS AN 82-DAY SUPPLY OF RICE ON HAND BASED ON THE
OFFICIAL CONSUMPTION RATE OF 650 METRIC TONS (MT) PER DAY.
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9. ON MAY 24, ANOTHER AMENDMENT TO THE PL 480 AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED WHICH PROVIDED 5000 MT OF FEED GRAINS FOR POULTRY AND SMALL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION. THIS RAISED THE DOLLAR VALUE FOR THE 1974 AGREEMENT TO \$182.5 MILLION.

MILITARY

10. SECOND DIVISION FORCES IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE BASSAC AND MEKONG RIVERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH TOOK ABOUT 150 CASUALTIES OVER A FOUR-DAY PERIOD IN A THUS FAR UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO COUNTER AN ENEMY THRUST WHICH BEGAN MAY 23. KC INFILTRATORS RAIDED SEVERAL VILLAGES AND FANK POSITIONS THREE TO FOUR KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH AND GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO MORTAR AND ROCKET THE CAPITAL'S SOUTHERN EDGE. OTHER ROCKETS HIT DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH FROM THE NORTHEAST CAUSING LIGHT CASUALTIES.

11. FANK CARRIED OUT THE PLANNED EVACUATION OF THE ENTIRE CIVIL POPULATION AND MILITARY FORCES FROM THE LONG-VEISGED GARRISON AT BAMNAK IN PURSAT PROVINCE WITHOUT INCIDENT. FANK REPORTEDLY LEFT NOTHING OF USE TO THE ENEMY.

12. ENCIRCLED KOMPONG SEILA ON ROUTE 4 GAVE GROUND UNDER CONTINUED GROUND PROBES AND MORTAR ATTACKS. NORTH OF PHNOM PENH, LOVEK EXPANDED ITS PERIMETER SLIGHTLY AS THE KC REPOSITIONED FORCES TO MEET THE FANK THREAT MOVING UP ROUTE 5 FROM THE SOUTH. THE ROUTE 5 OPERATION SEE-SAWED BACK AND FORTH WITH FANK FINALLY RETAKING GROUND IT HAD LOST WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INFLECTING SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES ON THE KC.

13. A KHMER NAVY CONVOY OF NINE VESSELS SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITED THE TONLE SAP RIVER FROM PHNOM PENH TO KOMPONG CHHNANG ON MAY 28. THIS WAS THE FIRST TRANSIT OF THIS SECTION OF THE RIVER BY GKR CRAFT SINCE THE ENEMY BEGAN AN INTENSIVE INTERDICTION EFFORT ON APRIL 21. THE CONVOY WHICH TOOK LIGHT ENEMY FIRE REMOVED ONE ENEMY BARRICADE EN ROUTE.

14. THE MAY 23 MEKONG CONVOY TOOK HEAVY KC SHORE FIRE BUT DAMAGE WAS SLIGHT AND ALL VESSELS MADE IT TO PHNOM PENH.
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DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005